



The Alternative Pathways to Teacher Certification Program is designed to help ensure all Arizona students have access to highly qualified teachers. The Teaching Intern Program, an integral piece of the Alternative Pathways, focuses on recruiting mid-career changers, retired professionals, or recent college graduates interested in teaching in a high-need school. Content focuses are the core academic areas\* in grades 7-12 with an emphasis on science, math, and K-12 Special Education.

The program requires that interested individuals have a bachelor degree, pass an Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment (AEPA) subject knowledge exam, possess the Structured English Immersion Provisional endorsement, and attend a two year Arizona State Board approved alternative path to certification preparation program or an Arizona State Board approved teacher preparation program. Once enrolled in an approved teacher preparation program candidates will be issued a Teaching Intern Certificate.

Upon receiving a Teaching Intern Certificate a person can seek a teaching contract. They receive full teaching salary and benefits, which ensures no loss of income for participants. Support is received from a district/school administrator and a college/university supervisor.

The Intern Teaching Certificate is a one year certificate that may be extended for a second consecutive year if all requirements are met. The AEPA Professional Knowledge exam must be passed before the end of the second year of the Teaching Intern Certificate. Upon completion of all Teaching Intern requirements, candidates shall be eligible to apply for a Provisional Teaching Certificate with an Institutional Recommendation.

Certified teachers interested in obtaining special education certification can participate in the teaching intern program. The program requires teachers to pass the AEPA Cross Categorical (22) exam. Upon receiving a Special Education Cross Category Teaching Intern Certificate a teacher can seek a special education teaching position.

*\* Art, biology, business, chemistry, earth science, economics, English, French, geography, German, health, history, library/educational media, mathematics, middle grades general science, middle grades language arts/reading, middle grades social studies, music, physics, political science/American government, Spanish, and special education*

See: <https://www.ade.az.gov/asd/altpath>